

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendments in light of the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

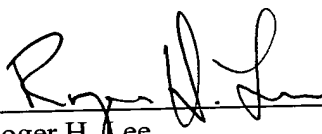
At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the issuance of a Notice of Allowance by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 25, 2003.

Applicants also thank Examiner Shosho of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for her time and consideration in conducting a telephonic interview with Applicants' representative on October 8, 2003. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed to consider and enter amendments to independent claims 1, 10 and 12 in which hydrogen is deleted from the list of R<sub>2</sub> substituents. By the above amendments, claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended accordingly.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to issue a communication acknowledging consideration and entry of the above amendments. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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